



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

#11

Satoshi EJIMA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2174

Application No.: 08/965,197

Examiner: S. Sax

Filed: November 6, 1997

Docket No.: JAO 32373

For: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D. C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the July 8, 2002 Office Action, the period for reply being extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 15-22, 24, 26-28, 32-41, 43, 45-47, 51-56, 58, 60-62, 66 and 67 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Sax during the January 2 telephone conference. As discussed during the telephone conference, Applicants submit that the Office Action mailed July 8, 2002, did not address the amendments made in the Preliminary Amendment filed on November 14, 2001 because, for example, the Office Action rejects claims 1-67, whereas the Preliminary Amendment cancelled claims 6, 8, 12-14, 23, 25, 29-31, 42, 44, 48-50, 57, 59 and 63-65. Moreover, the Office Action did not address the features added to the claims by the Preliminary Amendment. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of the Preliminary Amendment is attached along with a copy of the date-stamped receipt evidencing the timely submission.

Applicants request that the Amendment filed on November 14, 2001 be considered and, if necessary, a new Non-Final Action be issued. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants submit that all pending claims are patentable.

Claims 1-7, 12-24, 29-43, 48-58 and 63-67 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,414,811 to Parulski et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,539,426 to Nishikawa et al. In addition, dependent claims 8-11, 25-28, 44-47 and 59-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the above references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,317 to Bolnick et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons set forth below.

None of the applied references discloses or suggests an arrangement in which, *inter alia*, a display screen is divided into n^2 areas, one or more of the images are displayed as reduced images that are smaller than $1/n$ height by $1/n$ width in a corresponding one of the areas of the screen, and a symbol representative of the other information data (e.g., sound data as recited in some of the dependent claims) is displayed in a corresponding one of the divided areas of the display screen as recited in independent claim 1, 19, 37 and 53. None of the applied references discloses or suggests displaying reduced images (of images that are stored in memory) along with a symbol representative of other information data (such as, for example, sound data) stored in memory. Furthermore, the references do not disclose or suggest the manner in which the reduced images and symbol are displayed, as set forth above, in independent claims 1, 19, 37 and 53. In particular, the references do not disclose or suggest displaying the reduced images and the symbols in areas (corresponding ones of the n^2 areas) having the same size, which facilitates maintenance of the aspect ratio of the displayed reduced images.

Parulski et al. relates to an apparatus that displays multiple images simultaneously so that those images can be compared to each other. See, for example, col. 2, lines 12-37 and col. 4, lines 44-53 of Parulski et al. As recognized in the Office Action, Parulski et al. provides no teaching regarding the display of any symbol representative of information data other than stored images. This is not surprising because, as noted above, the object of Parulski et al. is to simultaneously display a plurality of images so that those images can be compared to each other. There is no reason to modify Parulski et al. to display a symbol representative of information data other than images.

Nishikawa et al. suffers from the same deficiencies as Parulski et al. noted above. That is, Nishikawa et al. is only concerned with the display of images. In particular, Parulski et al. relates to displaying images for medical diagnosis. See, for example, col. 2, lines 46-50, col. 3, lines 24-26 and col. 4, line 64 - col. 5, line 5. Again, there is no reason to modify Nishikawa et al. to display a symbol representative of information data other than images.

Bolnick et al., even when combined with Parulski et al. and/or Nishikawa et al., does not disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 19, 37 and 53. Bolnick et al. relates to displaying graphical representations in a GUI. See, for example, col. 2, lines 11-15. Bolnick et al. does not disclose or suggest displaying reduced images of images that are stored in memory, or an arrangement in which such reduced images are displayed along with symbols that represent information data other than images. Applicants respectfully submit that one having ordinary skilled in the art would not arrive at the combination of features/steps recited in independent claims 1, 19, 37 and 53 from reading Parulski et al., Nishikawa et al. and Bolnick et al. without using impermissible hindsight.

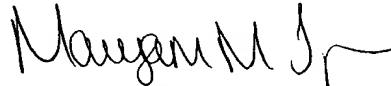
The combination of features/steps recited in independent claims 18, 35, 52 and 57 also are not disclosed or suggested by the applied references. In particular, none of the

references discloses or suggest an arrangement in which blank images are displayed when $p < n^2$.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment filed November 14, 2001
PTO Date-Stamped Receipt

Date: January 3, 2003

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